News release

UK's Weather Archive opens its doors

11 March 2005

Where could you find the weather charts prepared for D-Day briefings or Daniel Defoe's personal account of the Great Storm of 1703? On 14 March 2005, The National Meteorological Archive reopens at its new home in Exeter, and the public can once again visit and see these historic documents and many others like them.

The National Meteorological Library has been based in Exeter since November 2003, with the Archive forming the last part of the Met Office move to the south-west. Sharing the new Devon Record Office at Great Moor House, the Archive is one of the most comprehensive collections of meteorological records in the world. It is home to other fascinating records such as Admiral Beaufort's original scale from 1805 and the weather records of Scott's doomed Antarctic expedition from 1911, as well as a UK Daily Weather Report for every day since 1860.

Maintaining the National Meteorological Library and Archive is one of the Met Office's prime responsibilities. Constantly updated, it provides a comprehensive record of our climate, as well as being an invaluable resource, both for scientific research or for anyone interested in the history of UK weather.

Ian MacGregor from the National Meteorological Archive said: "The National Meteorological Archive is one of the largest collections of paper-based meteorological records and charts held anywhere in the world. We hold daily weather charts produced by the Met Office since 1867 and some of our private diaries go back as far as the eighteenth century. We are confident our users will enjoy using the superb new facilities."

Notes to editors:

- The National Meteorological Archive is based at Great Moor House, Sowton Industrial Estate, Exeter, Devon.
- The opening hours are 1000 to 1800, weekdays only.
- The Archive shares its home with the Devon Records Office.

More about the National Meteorological Library and Archive

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